

Cunningham Lake Regional Park Conceptual Trail and Bike Park Design

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Prepared for:

Department of Parks, Recreation and
Neighborhood Services
City of San Jose, CA

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Overview

The development of community bike parks has advanced rapidly in the past several years, with new facilities such as Valmont in Boulder, Colorado, being complimented by several dozen smaller parks across North America. Providing a location for riders to partake of bike-optimized trails and appealing to a wide range of skills, bike parks become physical centers for the millions of mountain bicyclists who live in urban areas.



Cunningham Lake Regional Park has the opportunity to become the premier community bike park in California. Already developed with a water park and a large skate park, and containing the eponymous lake, the park contains sufficient area and topographic relief to host a number of tracks and trails built exclusively for mountain bicyclists.

At the request of the City of San Jose and cycling stakeholders, staff from the Trail Solutions program of the International Mountain Bicycling Association visited the site several times to assess the potential for the development of a regionally significant mountain bike park. The results of that investigation are contained in this report.

The involvement of the aforementioned stakeholders has been considerable, which bodes well for the ultimate success of the bike park if it is constructed. A combination of interested individuals and bicycle industry companies have supported the planning process and are likely be present throughout the process.

The conceptual site plan has two options under consideration for the tracks and trails around the existing skate park. Further refinement of the site plan in subsequent stages will determine which is the ideal configuration. For the overall conceptual site plan Option 1 is displayed; both Option 1 and Option 2 are shown in detail on separate pages.

Tracks and Trails

Pump Track

The main pump track will be designed for a range of skill levels to allow cyclists to learn and perfect their riding skills. This track will have a designed direction-of-use to allow for progression of skills and fitness for riders coming from the Kids/Tots Pump Track or riders hoping to advance to the more organic and advanced Pump Park.



The main pump track will be located west of the existing skate park on the main mound in the southeast corner of the Cunningham Lake Regional Park. The pump track design will add approximately 10,000 square feet of bike-specific features to the park.

Pump Park

The pump park concept will be a pump track that is designed to be multi-directional and allow users to create their own routes through the features. The pump park is designed for intermediate to advanced users and will foster more organic and creative riding.

The pump park will be located southwest of the existing skate park in the southeast corner of the regional park and will add approximately 15,000 square feet of bike-specific features in the regional park.

Kids/Tots Pump Track

The kids/tots pump track will be a pump track designed for smaller bicycles and users. It will feature reduced-sized rollers and swales as well as lower-angle bermed turns. It will have features that can accommodate strider-type bicycles as well as smaller-wheeled bikes with short wheelbases. The kids/tots pump track is designed for the newest of riders.



The kids/tots pump track will be located on the northwest corner of the skate park in the southeast corner of the property. It will have easy access from the walking path up to the skate park. The kids/tots park will add approximately 11,000 square feet of beginner bicycle features to the regional park.

Dirt Jump Area

The proposed dirt jump area will be designed for beginner to advanced riders. There will be jump lines to encourage less-skilled riders to progress to the bigger jumps. The larger jumps will allow more-advanced riders to practice and further their skills.



The dirt jump area will be located on the main mound south of the skate park in the southeast corner of the property. Including several lines approximately 350 feet in length, the dirt jump area will add approximately 26,000 square feet of bike-specific features.

Flow Trails

The three proposed flow trails will be designed for beginner to advanced users. The trails will contain flow features such as rollers, dips, and berms allowing users to transfer their pump track and jump park skills to trail use.



The flow trails will be located on the east and north east side of the lake in three separate areas. The first trail will be located near the skate park and allow the mound elevation to push riders along. The other two trails will be located along the shores of Cunningham Lake and utilize the shoreline elevation.

The flow trails will add approximately 9,500 linear feet of bike-specific infrastructure to the regional park.

Freeride Area and Freeride Drop Zone

The proposed freeride areas will be suited for intermediate to advanced riders. The freeride area will feature “freeform features” such as wall rides, drops, step-on and step-off jumps, and other technical structures. The freeride drop area will feature a series of drops and technical lines that will challenge riders from top to bottom and offer significant progression, ensuring they will hold riders’ interest.



The freeride area will be located on the northeast side of the skate park. The freeride drop zone will be located near the dirt jumps south of the skate park. These areas will enhance an additional 54,000 square feet in the regional park.

Dual Slalom Course

The dual slalom course is suited for intermediate to advanced riders looking to compete or practice on an enclosed, directional course. The slalom course will consist of two nearly identical tracks featuring rollers, tabletop jumps, and bermed turns offering riders a short gravity-fed experience. Ideally, the dual slalom course will have a starting hill and gate where riders can start on a timed run.

The dual slalom course will be located in the southeast corner of the park near the skate park. The slalom trail will need to utilize the 160’ of elevation. The two separate lines will create nearly 1,900 linear feet of additional trail to the regional park.

Singletrack Trail and Skills Areas

The proposed singletrack trail will be suited for beginner to intermediate users looking to build fitness and confidence in a low-barrier environment. The trail will appeal to users looking to exercise in the shade along South White Road and Cunningham Avenue. The proposed trail will also offer four skills areas



where trail users can learn and hone technical bicycling skills in a low-risk setting.

The singletrack trail will be located along the northern and eastern boundary of the park near Cunningham Avenue and South White Road. The skills areas will be located alongside the trail northwest of the existing skate park. This system will add approximately 2,800 linear feet of trail and 2,000 square feet of skills areas for the park users to enjoy.

Other Proposed Park Amendments

The park already provides great infrastructure for visitors, and utilizing existing features would allow the park to offer additional experiences for riders. The rock watershed near the staircase on the east side of the lake is proposed to provide a trials and skills area for people to practice their trials skills. Minimal effort would be required to make this area suitable for this purpose.

The adjacent staircase would offer an ideal obstacle for the sport of cyclocross racing for both practice and actual competition. The layout of existing roads and proposed trails in the park also generally lends itself to local-level mountain bike races, such as short-track. An additional natural surface walking path is also proposed to connect the southeast parking area with the sidewalk areas along the eastern shore of the lake to improve internal non-motorized access and circulation.



Priorities and Phasing

Kids/Tots Pump Track

Pump Track

Pump Park

South Flow Trail

Dirt Jump Area

Middle Flow Trail

North Flow Trail

Singletrack Trail and Skills Area

Trials Area

Freeride Area

Freeride Drop Zone

Dual Slalom Course

Walking Path



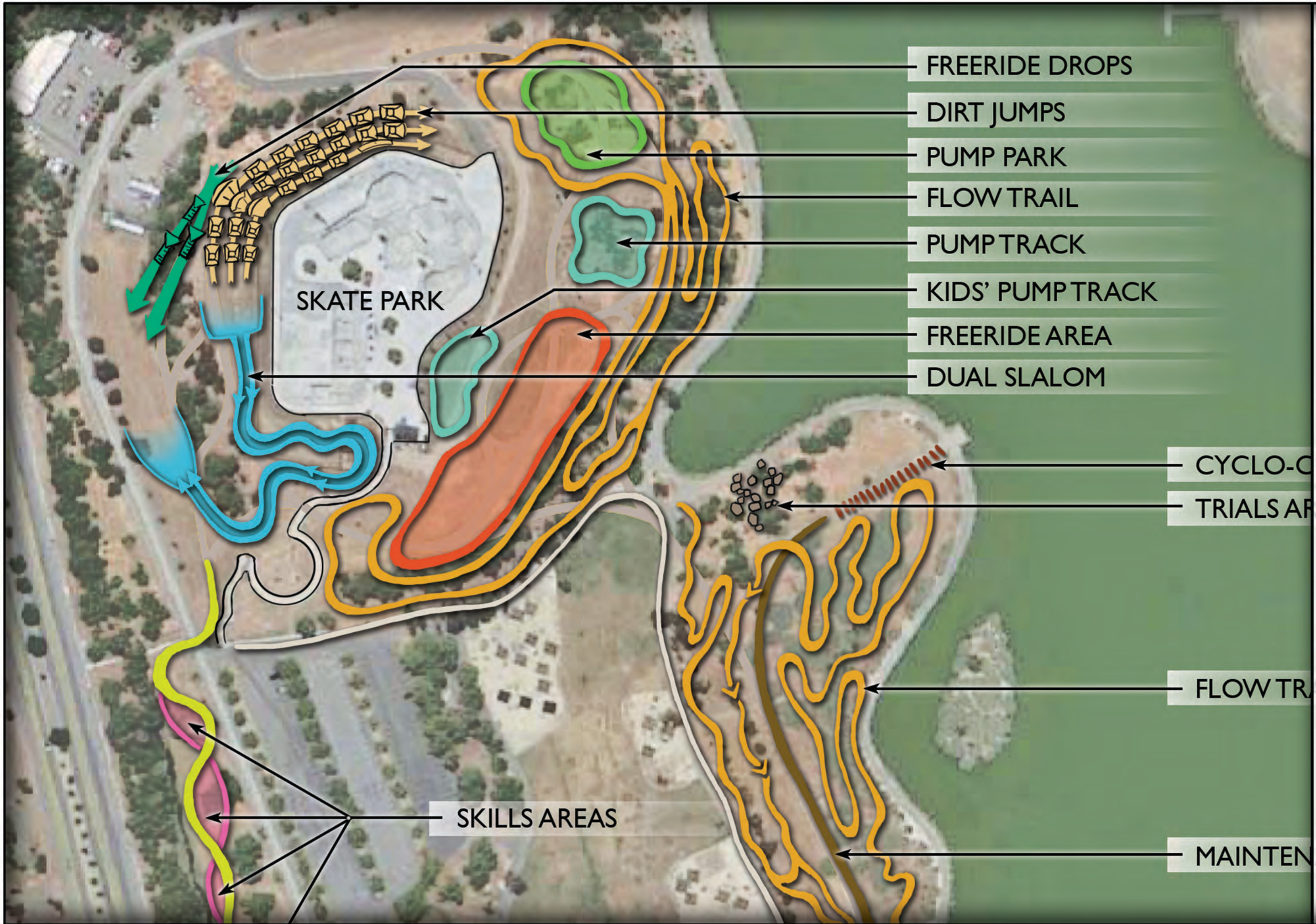


Conceptual Site Plan



Conceptual Site Plan
8.17.12

LAKE CUNNINGHAM BIKE PARK



FREERIDE DROPS

DIRT JUMPS

PUMP PARK

FLOW TRAIL

PUMP TRACK

KIDS' PUMP TRACK

FREERIDE AREA

DUAL SLALOM

CYCLO-CROSS

TRIALS AREA

FLOW TRAIL

MAINTENANCE

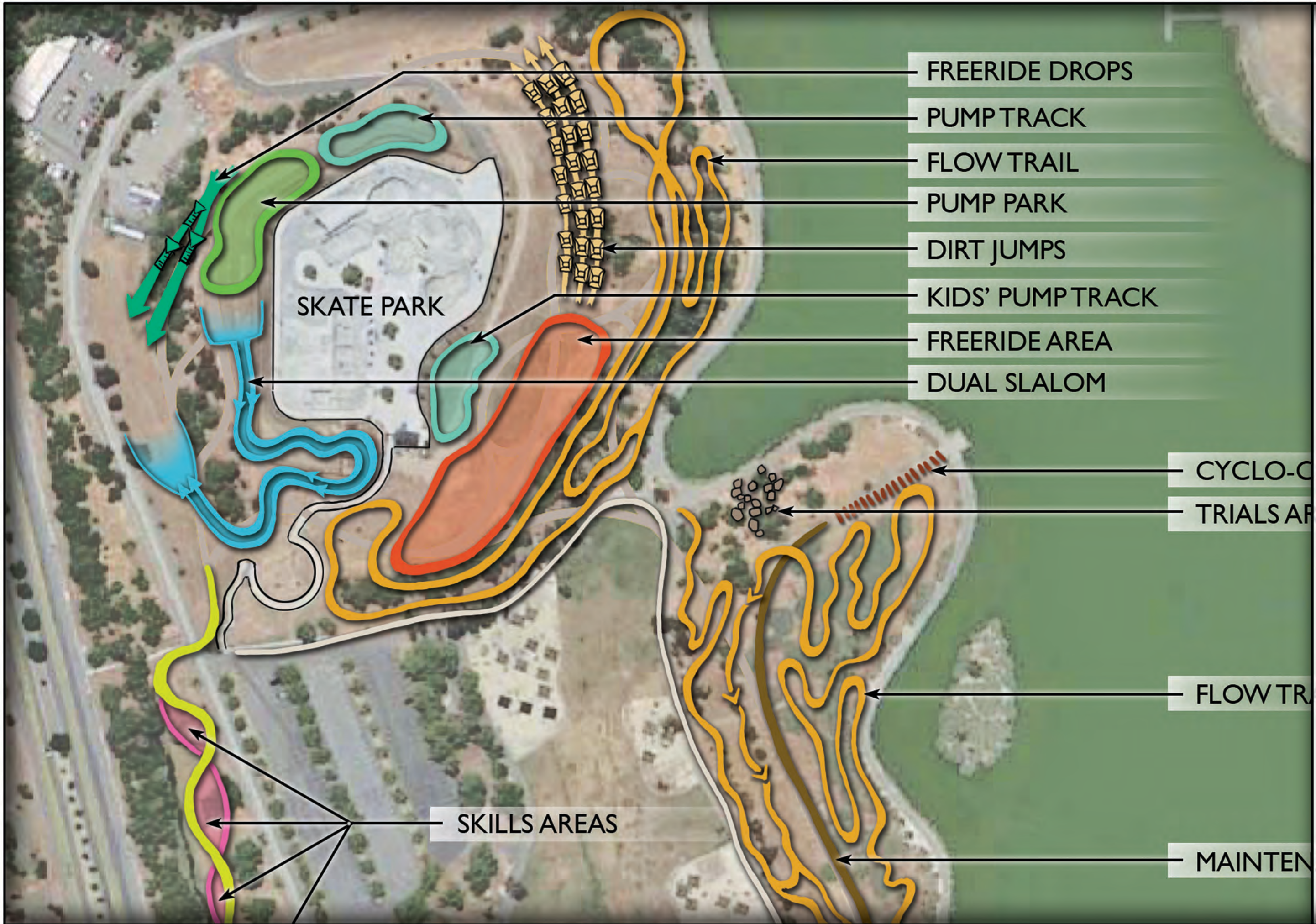
SKILLS AREAS

SKATE PARK



Zoom-In Opt. I
Conceptual Site Plan
8.17.12

LAKE CUNNINGHAM BIKE PARK



Zoom-In Opt. 2
Conceptual Site Plan
8.17.12

LAKE CUNNINGHAM BIKE PARK



LAKE CUNNINGHAM
BIKE PARK

Dual Slalom Course
Conceptual Rendering
8.17.12





Dirt Jumps
Conceptual Rendering
8.17.12

LAKE CUNNINGHAM
BIKE PARK